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## **YOUTH COUNCIL ON WORKFORCE SERVICES**

**Monday, May 15, 2006**

**1385 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**2:00 p.m.**

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Presiding: Paul Jackson, Chair

Present: James Andersen, Linda Fife, Kay Forbush, Parley Jacobs (for Dr. Stephen Ronnenkamp), Sandra Hemmert, Akilah Messado, Kevin Miller, Roland Oliver, Jon Pierpont, Angela Romero, Claire Turner, Sheri VanBibber

Absent: Gay Pinnecoose, Melva Sine, M .Ali Wilkinson

Excused: Senator Brent Goodfellow, David Melville,

Guests: Marie Christman-Department of Human Service, Kent Fitzgerald-YES, Jude Schmid-YES

Staff: Amber Adams, Rod Barlow, Diane Lovell, Mary Peterson

### **1. Welcome & Announcements**

Paul Jackson began the meeting at 2:07 pm by introducing and welcoming Marie Christman, Deputy Director-State Department of Human Services and State Youth Council Chair, and Angela Romero replacing Kim Thomas as the Youth Council representative for Salt Lake City-YouthCity Programs.

Mr. Jackson thanked Amber Adams for her summary of the breakout session outcomes from the Retreat and for making sure everyone received a copy electronically. He then asked that everyone break into committees and then reconvene for the Youth Council Meeting at 2:45 pm.

*Council Reconvened at 2:50 pm.*

Following the breakout sessions, Paul Jackson thanked those that attended the Retreat on April 27 at the Tooele Fire Fighters Museum. The Retreat highlights included a presentation from Tani Downing, DWS Executive Director who spoke on the department's diminishing revenues due to Utah's excellent economy. The keynote speaker, Dr. Quinn McKay, spoke on Integrity in the Workplace. The Retreat concluded with a tour of the new Larry Miller Motor Sports Park.

Chairman Jackson reported that the State Council distributed a new planning template at the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Central Region Council and Youth Council goals that were developed at the Retreat are reflected in the draft Regional Plan included in the agenda packets.

The Youth Council has been asked to report to the Regional Council on June 22, 2006 on its activities, accomplishments and future plans. Mr. Jackson asked the Youth Council for suggestions regarding content for the presentation. He will send an email prior to the 22nd for additional input from the members.

Paul Jackson asked for assistance in recruiting members, especially from the private sector. Vacancies exist in the following categories: Housing Authority, Economic Development, Adult Education, Parents and Youth. Business Services has been asked to assist in identifying potential business members.

Betty Barker will be retiring from Jordan School District leaving her position vacant. Paul Jackson expressed his appreciation for Ms. Barker's participation, contributions and her expertise in the area of Career and Technical Education. She has been a stalwart member of Youth Council and will be missed.

A Job Fair co-sponsored by DWS Business Services and Kevin Miller's staff at Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) is scheduled on June 20. It will be held at the SLCC South Campus with approximately 35-40 employers. It was noted that June 1<sup>st</sup> is the last day of school in the Salt Lake District and a flyer announcing the Job Fair will be emailed to Youth Council members on or before June 1.

Claire Turner announced that a flyer for youth 18 and under would be sent out advertising Youth Education at the University of Utah. She will forward this information to Diane Lovell for distribution.

## **2. Approval of March 20, 2006 Minutes – Paul Jackson**

**Paul Jackson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2006 Youth Council meeting. Claire Turner made the motion to approve. Sheri VanBibber seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". The motion carried.**

## **3. Committee Reports & Recommendations**

Alternative Education – James Andersen reported the committee reached a realization that if they "can do one thing" it will be an accomplishment. This committee wants to find out about a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between education (includes Rehabilitation), Human Services and DWS. A review of the MOU will help determine:

1. What information and specific student data can be released under the MOU, and;
2. He and Sandra Hemmert can use the MOU to attempt to convince the five school districts to share a list of the youth that have been exempted from attending school. Having these names in one place will allow for the next step.

Roland Oliver asked Marie Christman if there is a current MOU available. Ms. Christman indicated that this document was updated and sent to all Executive Directors. Suzette Hudson of DWS is coordinating with the involved agencies to secure signatures.

Paul Jackson noted that he would work with Ms. Hudson and Karla Aguirre to get copies of the signed MOU. James Anderson and Sandra Hemmert can then share with all five school districts and provide contact names by school district at the August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Performance/Contract Compliance (most in need) – No report was given today.

Business & Targeted Industries – Amber Adams reported that the following topics were discussed:

- The importance of the Industry Roundtables and Youth Council participation.
- The Miller MotorFest planned in September
- Recruiting employers for membership on the Youth Council

Youth Activities/Partnerships – Sheri VanBibber reported that they are excited about working with the Utah Bureau of Apprenticeship Training by connecting with Juan Peleaz. This contact will help open doors and clarify paperwork requirements so that more businesses will take youth into paid apprenticeships.

The Just for Youth web page will be reviewed and focus groups will be held to help make it more user-friendly. Angela Romero and Sheri VanBibber will meet additionally to determine the time frames to have this take place. In addition, Ms. Romero is running four paid internship programs this summer through YouthCity.

#### **4. DWS Update – Jon Pierpont**

Jon Pierpont reported on three items:

1. Family Employment Program (FEP) Participation – Fifty percent of TANF/FEP caseloads need to be engaged in work activities that count toward the federal participation rate. These activities include training, employment, high school completion an/or worksite learning and must total 34 hours per week. DWS started July 2005 at 12% with a goal of 50% by July 2006. Mr. Pierpont shared a handout that reflected that as of April, Central Region leads all regions at 32.93% as compared to the statewide average of 29.72%. The Downtown office is at 54% and the Manager is working with other offices to help increase their rates. Jon Pierpont noted that one of the challenges is that there are approximately 450 individuals who have “mental health” as an exclusive service. DWS is working with Valley Mental Health to determine different ways to serve those with mental health issues so that their involvement will count toward federal participation requirements.
2. Refugees – Two town hall meetings were held that provided a forum for refugees to meet with local government representatives and discuss unmet needs. Two new groups of refugee immigrants that are particularly difficult to serve are 600 Somali-Bantus and 300 Turkish Russians. DWS is working at the policy level to explore options for addressing the needs of and better serving these and other refugee populations. Mr. Pierpont indicated that he would take issues associated with refugee youth in school back to policy level decision makers.

3. Homeless– Mr. Pierpont reported that a new a one-stop model for homeless families and individuals is scheduled for implementation on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Focus group meetings are scheduled in June and more information will be forthcoming.

### **5. Transition to Adult Living – Regional Update – S. Roland Oliver**

Roland Oliver shared the following recent rule changes.

- The initiative is no longer called Independent Living. It is now Transition to Adult Living.
- The age to receive services has been lowered from 16 to age 14.
- Another change impacting the use of the Employment Training Voucher (ETV) funds is that a high school diploma or equivalent is no longer required in order to access ETV funds. If they are 18 or older and have applied to a secondary program such as a technical school, training program, etc. they are eligible for the ETV funds.
- Another rule change, which has caused a debate both locally and nationally is what are the youth called who have exited out of foster care. The current language is now Exited Care.
- Another change noted will be the use of the term “youth” rather than “child”.

One change that is pending is raising the age of eligibility for Medicaid from 19 to 21. Mr. Oliver does not know when this change will be effective.

### **6. WIA Performance Outcomes & Contractor (YES) Update – Rod Barlow**

Rod Barlow referred to the Seven Youth Performance Outcome Measures reflected on a report in the agenda packet. Central Region/(YES) has met all but one of the measures. required by the federal government. Two new measures taking effect beginning July 1, 2006 are:

- Youth Placement in Employment or Education
- Youth Attain Degree or Certification

Mr. Barlow distributed another report that reflected enrollment in each of the measures and analyzed case management activity. James Andersen was suggested that the follow-up case manager’s statistics be removed from the data to reflect a more accurate picture of the average caseload. It was also suggested that “average caseload” is useful information; however, specific workload statistics by Case Manager are not necessary reporting elements.

### **7. State Youth Council**

Paul Jackson provided highlights from the April 24 State Youth Council meeting held in St. George, which included:

1. Transition to Adult Living Evaluation
2. Youth Leadership Development Projects
3. Newsletter (purposes and value) – Encouraged to take and share with other agencies and employees
4. Goal Setting Program –The State Council voted to shift the ratio of in-school / out of school from 50% / 50% to 30% / 70% respectively

Marie Christman commented that an evaluation report has been presented to the State Youth Council on issues identified from TAL focus groups where improvement needs to take place. The report has been delayed until the data collected can be broken down on a regional level. When this information is ready, she will send this out to all Youth Council Chairs and staff.

#### **8. Agenda Setting**

Paul Jackson announced that the June 19<sup>th</sup> Youth Council Retreat was cancelled and the next Youth Council Meeting will be held on August 21, 2006.

#### **9. Other Business**

Jude Schmid noted that both leadership projects have been completed and they went very well. She will forward pictures to Diane Lovell that can be emailed to Youth Council members.

#### **10. New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **11. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

Paul Jackson concluded the meeting by stating that he feels the Youth Council is making a difference and thanked everyone for their energy and effort.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.